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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. Academy for Mobilizing Rural-Urban Action through Education

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The Academy for Mobilizing Rural-Urban Action through Education works to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, especially women and children, in Maharashtra, India. It works in close association with grass-roots organizations and international non-governmental agencies. During the reporting period, it facilitated the formulation of State policies for children; developed strategies for HIV/AIDS prevention and care and for improving the status of the girl child; and developed a training module for elected women representatives.

In collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other groups, it implemented a project to prevent malnutrition among children under three years of age; sustain reduced levels of micronutrient deficiencies (iron, iodine and vitamin A); and improve home childcare practices, including infant and young child feeding and care practices. Activities included counselling women on how to feed their children and manage diarrhoea; conducting monthly campaigns on immunization, deworming and vitamin A supplementation; providing health-care and nutrition programmes to 10,000 street children; and helping 6,000 gifted children to complete their education.

The Academy also implemented an HIV/AIDS programme for children designed to reduce vulnerabilities, slow down the rate of new infections and mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS in children and young adults. In addition, it worked to prevent sexual abuse of children and child trafficking.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

(a) Reduced infant and maternal mortality rates through appropriate interventions in health, nutrition, safe water, sanitation and hygiene, and special care for girls and women; (b) reduced child malnutrition and the incidence of low birth weight; (c) ensured quality elementary education for all children; (d) enhanced child protection including progressive elimination of child labour; (e) helped to prevent child sexual abuse and child trafficking and protecting children and adolescents from HIV/AIDS.

2. Concerned Women for America

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

Concerned Women for America defends the welfare of women and families by promoting social policies that foster healthy family relationships. During the reporting period, it participated in numerous United Nations conferences, at which it provided information on gender and family issues and hosted workshops on topics of concern to women.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization participated in the following meetings: (a) Commission on the Status of Women, March 2005; (b) informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with non-governmental organizations, June 2005; (c) Commission on the Status of Women, March 2006; (d) ad hoc committee on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, August 2006; (e) 2008 High-level Meeting on AIDS; (f) Commission on Human Rights, April 2005.

3. Grameena Vikas Samithi

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

Grameena Vikas Samithi was organized by a group of socially conscious, educated young men and women, who are concerned about poverty, illiteracy and hunger. During the reporting period, the organization carried out activities in the fields of agriculture, the environment and nature conservation, women's and child development, and health and family welfare. For example, it implemented a project on participatory technology development in integrated farming in five villages in India that included the management of rainwater and the enhancement of soil fertility and crop productivity. Another project was the establishment of a training and production centre for jute diversified projects such as soft luggage and handbags. The organization was also involved in educating target groups on sexual and reproductive health, including HIV/AIDS, and in implementing a programme to diagnose hypertension, diabetes and kidney disease in the administrative divisions of Chandragiri and Pulicherla.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: Developed community seed banks and attained sustainable food security for 100 families in 10 villages; Goal 6: Organized World Aids Day 2007 in the village of Amudalakona; Goal 7: Implemented projects to increase biomass production and improve soil, thereby helping to ensure environmental sustainability. Its project on jute diversified products contributed to the efforts to mitigate global warming.

4. International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies

Special, 1993

I. Introduction

The International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies is dedicated to the advancement of policy, programme and service initiatives that seek to reduce traumatic stressors and their immediate and long-term consequences. Since its establishment in 1985, the Society has provided a forum for the sharing of research, clinical strategies, public policy concerns and theories on trauma around the world through its education and training programmes and publications. At the end of 2008, 49 countries were represented in the Society. Through its travel grants, sliding scale membership and conference fees, and participation in the World Health Organization (WHO) programme for Internet access to health research, it continues to demonstrate its commitment to global partnerships. In its mission to reduce trauma and its effects, it advocates for human rights, refugees, justice, women's and children's rights, physical and mental health, emergency planning, and development.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Representatives regularly attended Department of Public Information briefings and meetings and special events of the NGO Committees of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations, including the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, the NGO Committee on Mental Health, the NGO Committee on Human Rights and the Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Human rights: Beginning in 2006, the Society monitored the establishment and activities of the Human Rights Council. It also observed all Human Rights Days, the International Day for the Commemoration of the Two-hundredth Anniversary of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade (25 March 2007), the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in March 2007, and the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust in January 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Counter-terrorism, crime and justice: The Society helped to organize and spoke at an event on the trauma of terrorism, which was co-sponsored by 11 Governments and the Department of Political Affairs, as part of an overall lobbying initiative to focus on victims' mental health and trauma, rights and care. It also attended a summit on democracy, terrorism and security in March 2005 in Madrid, and numerous United Nations meetings on counter-terrorism between 2005 and 2008. At the tenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in Bangkok in 2005, the Society helped to organize and participated in four international ancillary panels on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration of Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, the

trauma of terrorism, the victims' role in the International Criminal Court, and restorative justice.

Rights of women and children: The Society participated in the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, and one session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2006.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Society contributed to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings published in 2007.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Society participated in an international conference on health and environment and bridging policies for action on the Millennium Development Goals in April 2005; a round table on building State capacity to meet the Goals; and a workshop on addressing the Goals, organized by the NGO/DPI Executive Committee in March 2006.

5. National Council for Research on Women

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

Since 1981, the National Council for Research on Women has helped to shape the future for women and girls. With over 100 research and policy centres and more than 2,000 top-level researchers, it provides the knowledge and leadership needed to foster fully informed debate, policies and practices and to build a more inclusive, equitable, and secure world for women and girls. The key to its success is highly focused, accessible, timely research.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Representatives of the Council attended the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women each year and organized side events on such topics as women and corporate social responsibility and the role of women in transforming international development.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The president of the Council presented a speech on women in leadership at the annual luncheon of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in New York in February 2008.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Council organized activities that support global principles and are aligned with Millennium Development Goal 3 (promoting gender equality and empowering women). It collaborated with the White House Project to develop an initiative entitled "Building total security through women's leadership", which widened the parameters of the American discussion on security and security policy and promoted women as equal partners with men in reframing the international dialogue. The Council also organized annual conferences on women's issues, which attracted some 400 participants each year, including scholars from Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia and South America. It published a report on tax reform strategies that promote gender equality as well as a report on "women's gains and gaps" that covers progress on women and the economy, education and training, health, safety, violence and war, and political participation.